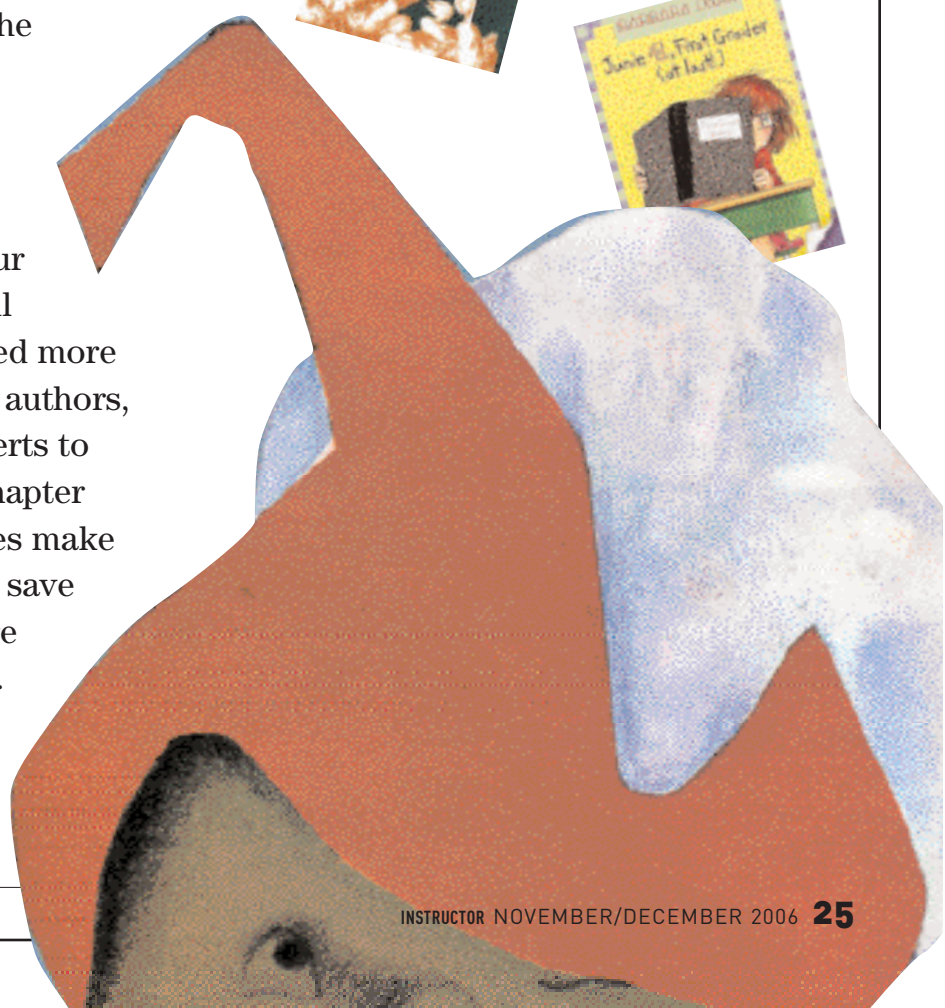
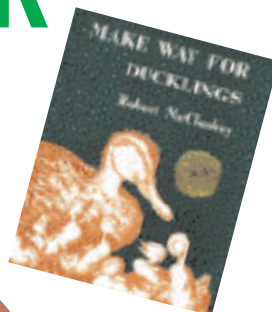


TEACHERS PICK THE TOP 50 KIDS BOOKS EVER

Max. Ramona. Junie B. Favorite students may come and go, but these irresistible kids will never leave your side. Thank goodness! What would we do without the beloved heroes of children's books? From Harry Potter's arrival at Hogwarts to Madeline's Parisian adventures, their stories stick in our minds long after the final bell has rung. That's why we asked more than 200 teachers, children's authors, and children's literature experts to name the best picture and chapter books ever. Did your favorites make the list? Read on to see. And save up those gift cards—there are surprising must-haves inside. (Go to www.scholastic.com/instructor to print an annotated list!) >>



TOP 25 PICTURE BOOKS

"Where the Wild Things Are does just what a picture book should do," says New Jersey teacher Bob Krech. "Every word counts."



1. WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins) is "so compressed in its language and so exuberant in its pictures and so psychologically right," says author Jane Yolen, herself nominated for *Owl Moon*. "I return to it again and again." So do teachers! Max earned three times as many votes as a certain munching insect.

2. THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR by Eric Carle (Penguin).

3. THE POLAR EXPRESS by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin). For many of you this shadowy story is a winter must, up there with hot chocolate and mittens. Third-grade teacher Janice Wright explains: "It's magic."

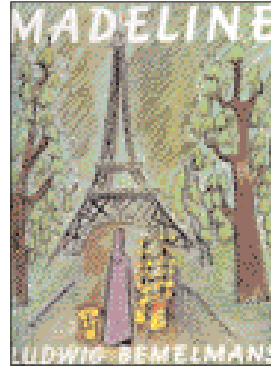
4. GOODNIGHT MOON by Margaret Wise Brown (HarperCollins).

5. LOVE YOU FOREVER by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Sheila McGraw (Firefly). "I can't help myself, I cry every time I read it," says *Instructor* editor Hannah Trierweiler. Sniff. Pass the tissues.

6. THE GIVING TREE by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).

7. SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE by William Steig (Simon & Schuster).

8. MADELINE by Ludwig Bemelmans (Penguin).



9. THE LITTLE HOUSE by Virginia Lee Burton (Houghton Mifflin).

10. BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL by Robert McCloskey (Penguin).

11. THE SNOWY DAY by Ezra Jack Keats (Penguin).

12. STELLALUNA by Janell Cannon (Harcourt). "Kids really connect to the message," wrote first-grade teacher Laurie Foote. What higher praise could a book receive?

13. IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond (HarperCollins).

14. THE OTHER SIDE by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Penguin).

15. OWL MOON by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr (Penguin).

16. THE SNOWMAN by Raymond Briggs (Random House) is the only wordless tale on our list.

17. THE MYSTERIES OF HARRIS BURDICK by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin).

18. MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS by Robert McCloskey (Penguin).



Anita Silvey, author of *100 Best Books for Children*, cherishes McCloskey's "subtle economy in text and art."

19. SKIPPYJON JONES by Judy Schachner (Penguin). This 2003 story of a mischievous cat has the distinction of being the newest teacher pick.

20. NO, DAVID! by David Shannon (Scholastic).

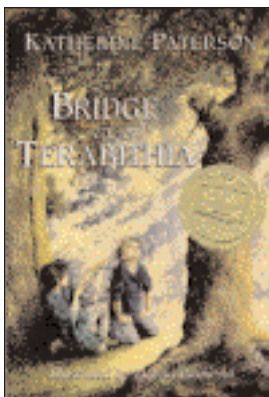
21. THE KEEPING QUILT by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster).

22. THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD by Watty Piper, illustrated by George & Doris Hauman (Penguin). Will the real Watty Piper please stand up—and accept our hurrahs? (It's a pseudonym for the original publisher; the author is disputed.)

23. THE MITTEN by Jan Brett (Penguin). Second-grade teacher Donna Thaggard echoed many voters when she said "any book by Brett" is bound to be an instant favorite.

24. GREEN EGGS AND HAM by Dr. Seuss (Random House). Thank goodness the good doctor accepted a bet that he couldn't write a story using only 50 words. As *Instructor* editor Jennifer Prescott sums up in only five words: "I do so like it!"

25. CURIOUS GEORGE by H.A. and Margret Ray (Houghton Mifflin).



1. CHARLOTTE'S WEB

by E.B. White (HarperCollins). Some pig, indeed. Monica Edinger, fourth-grade teacher and author of *Using Beloved Classics to Deepen Reading Comprehension*, calls *Charlotte's Web* "the great American children's novel...beginning with that remarkable first sentence 'Where's Papa going with that ax?'"

2. BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

by Katherine Paterson (HarperCollins).

3. HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S

STONE by J.K. Rowling (Scholastic). When the NEA surveyed teachers on kids' books in 1999, Harry Potter had yet to cast a spell. Now the whole world is hooked!

4. THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

by C.S. Lewis (HarperCollins).

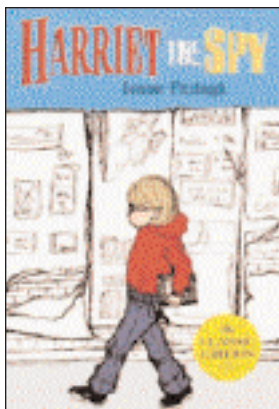
5. HOLES

by Louis Sachar (FSG).

6. **THE GIVER** by Lois Lowry (Random House), makes kids think. "It's wonderful for discussing politics," says brave teacher Jennifer Kopp.

7. BECAUSE OF

WINN-DIXIE by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick).



8. TALES OF A FOURTH

GRADE NOTHING by Judy Blume (Penguin).

9. A WRINKLE IN TIME

by Madeleine L'Engle (FSG). Jennifer Roy, author of *Yellow Star*, says her childhood fave "makes math, science, and philosophy appealing." Really.

10. FRINDLE

by Andrew Clements (Simon & Schuster).

11. CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

by Roald Dahl (Random House).

12. JUNIE B., FIRST GRADER (AT LAST!)

by Barbara Park (Random House).

13. WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

by Wilson Rawls (Random House).

14. TUCK EVERLASTING

by Natalie Babbitt (FSG). Snag this idea from Jane Yolen: "I use the opening in writing classes as an example of sheer beauty."

15. HARRIET THE SPY

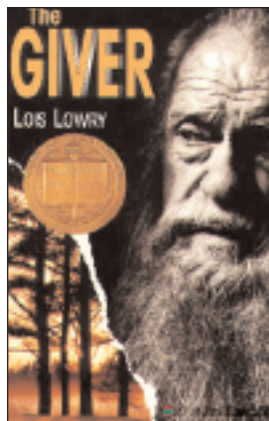
by Louise Fitzhugh (Random House).

16. RAMONA QUIMBY, AGE 8

by Beverly Cleary (HarperCollins).

17. LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

by Laura Ingalls Wilder (HarperCollins).



18. FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

by E.L. Konigsburg (Simon & Schuster).

19. MANIAC MAGEE

by Jerry Spinelli (Little, Brown).

20. THE SECRET GARDEN

by Frances Burnett.

21. RUBY HOLLER

by Sharon Creech (HarperCollins).

22. ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

by Mildred D. Taylor (Penguin).

23. ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

by L.M. Montgomery.

24. FREAK THE MIGHTY

by Rodman Philbrick (Scholastic).

25. A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

by Lemony Snicket (HarperCollins). We can't believe it's over either. □

TOP 25 CHAPTER BOOKS

"I can never read the chapter where Charlotte dies," second-grade teacher Jennifer Kopp admits. "I use a recording of E.B. White reading that part."

